

so-called Protect Life Act and urge my colleagues to join me. This bill is not only unconstitutional, but it is dangerous. A more accurate name for this bill is the "Endanger Women's Lives Act of 2011." In a time of such tough economic hardship, we should be concentrated on created jobs and stabilizing the economy, not advancing extreme legislation that is nothing less than the most comprehensive and radical assault of women's health in our lifetime.

REMEMBERING THE 55TH ANNIVERSARY OF THE HUNGARIAN REVOLUTION

HON. ANDY HARRIS

OF MARYLAND

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, October 18, 2011

Mr. HARRIS. Mr. Speaker, the Hungarian Revolution of 1956 was not only a culmination of Hungary's struggle for freedom, democracy and independence, but also presaged the collapse of the Soviet Empire. Indeed, the 1956 Hungarian Revolution and Fight for Freedom was the first tear in the Iron Curtain. Hungarians from all walks of life rose up against insurmountable odds to fight the brutal Soviet-installed Hungarian communist government. Many died fighting, others were tortured and executed, while 200,000 were forced to flee. 2011 marks the 55th anniversary of that historical chain of events.

The American Hungarian Federation, founded over 100 years ago and the oldest and largest umbrella Hungarian American organization in the United States, honors those whose enormous sacrifice seemed futile 55 years ago but that today is universally recognized as having contributed to the ultimate demise of Soviet domination of central and eastern Europe and the restoration of freedom and independence in Hungary and the region.

We must never forget the heroes of 1956—the students, the intellectuals, the workers, the farmers and the cross-section of the entire Hungarian nation—who knew exactly what they wanted 55 years ago and were prepared to realize their dreams at great personal sacrifice. They fought and died for freedom, a multi-party democracy and independence from the Soviet Union.

Two of our great presidents, among many others who cherish freedom and the courage to struggle for it, remembered the Hungarian Revolution as follows:

"October 23, 1956, is a day that will live forever in the annals of free men and nations. It was a day of courage, conscience and triumph. No other day since history began has shown more clearly the eternal unquenchability of man's desire to be free, whatever the odds against success, whatever the sacrifice required."—John F. Kennedy, on the first anniversary of the Hungarian Revolution.

"The Hungarian Revolution of 1956 was a true revolution of, by and for the people. Its motivations were humanity's universal longings to live, worship, and work in peace and to determine one's own destiny. The Hungarian Revolution forever gave the lie to communism's claim to represent the people, and told the world that brave hearts still exist to challenge injustice."—Excerpt from Ronald

Reagan's Presidential Proclamation issued on October 20, 1986.

We also recall the impact the massive Soviet invasion had on the Hungarian communities in states neighboring Hungary. One consequence was the solidly Stalinist Romanian government's virtual liquidation of the Hungarian-language Bolyai University in Romania, which was implemented by the secretary of the Central Committee, Nicolae Ceausescu. Five years ago Nobel Laureates and Wolf Prize Laureates, including Elie Wiesel and George Olah, and 69 other internationally acclaimed scholars called upon Romania to take "immediate steps" to "re-establish the public Bolyai University in Cluj-Napoca/Kolozsvár." The university has yet to be restored.

Another victim of communism was Janos Esterhazy, who despite being the only member of Slovakia's parliament to vote against the deportation of Jews in 1942, nevertheless died in a Czechoslovak prison in 1957. While Russia has done so, Slovakia has yet to exonerate him.

Righting wrongs against Hungarian minorities (e.g., the Esterhazy case and the Bolyai University matter) that extend back to the Cold War period and respecting the rights of such minorities would be a fitting commemoration of 1956 and a tribute to the memory of thousands of unsung heroes who did not compromise but sacrificed their lives for the cause of liberty fifty-five years ago. Moreover, in order to strengthen democracy and safeguard freedoms throughout the region, today's generation—the beneficiary of the restored freedoms following the demise of communism—must be vigilant and guard against the curtailment of democracy and infringement of fundamental human rights and Western standards relating to minority rights.

Consistent with its practice of fifty-five years, the American Hungarian Federation is committed to keep the memory of the heroes of 1956 alive. As we contemplate the promise of Hungary 1956, we are reminded that that promise must never be forgotten or abandoned, as the heroes of 1956 deserve nothing less.

SUPPORT FOR H.R. 639, THE CURRENCY REFORM FAIR TRADE ACT

HON. PATRICK MEEHAN

OF PENNSYLVANIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, October 18, 2011

Mr. MEEHAN. Mr. Speaker, I rise to express my continued support for H.R. 639, the Currency Reform for Fair Trade Act. This legislation will provide the United States an important tool to address unfair currency manipulation practices, and I hope that it can receive a debate and a clean, up-or-down vote in the House.

I voted against the Motion to Recommit to H.R. 3078, the U.S. Colombia Trade Promotion Agreement Act because it was a poison pill motion that would have derailed this important, carefully negotiated trade agreement that enjoyed the support of President Barack Obama as well as 262 bipartisan members of the House. Were one word to change in the U.S.-Colombia agreement, this agreement, that has taken years to reach,

would have lost its legislative protections in the Senate under the Trade Promotion Authority Act. Doing so would have killed this agreement and further delayed action to level the playing field for U.S. workers and create jobs here at home.

VETERANS' BENEFITS TRAINING IMPROVEMENT ACT OF 2011

SPEECH OF

HON. SHEILA JACKSON LEE

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, October 11, 2011

Ms. JACKSON LEE of Texas. Mr. Speaker, I rise today in support of H.R. 2349, "Veterans' Benefits Training Improvement Act of 2011," which directs the Secretary of Veterans Affairs to annually assess the skills of appropriate Veterans Benefits Administration employees and managers responsible for processing VA compensation and pension benefit claims, implement individualized training plans related to such skills, provide remediation for deficiently skilled employees or managers receiving a less than satisfactory result on any portion of the assessment, take appropriate disciplinary actions with respect to individuals failing to receive a satisfactory result after being given two opportunities for such remediation, and requires the Secretary to submit a related annual report to Congress.

It is essential that employees and managers responsible for VA compensation receive sufficient training to better assist our veterans. These employees need to be well aware of the range of possible benefits and packages that are available for our service men and women so that they can take full advantage of every opportunity that they rightfully deserve. I suspect that this legislation will address any areas of concern in regard to training so that the Veterans Benefits Administration can be of better service to our veterans.

As the Representative from the 18th Congressional District of Houston I am thoroughly familiar with the issues faced by our veterans when they return from deployment. I believe that any man or woman who risks their lives for the freedom and rights of others deserves to receive the benefits they have earned. I know first-hand how my constituents feel regarding this issue. In the State of Texas, we have nearly 1.7 million veterans, and 18th District is home to 32,000 of them. I feel that it is my duty, as well as that of my colleagues to ensure that employees and managers who are responsible for VA compensation and pension benefit claims adhere to proper protocol when processing funds for our veterans.

My office receives calls from disheartened constituents who cannot understand why it is such a challenge to receive the appropriate VA benefits. The fact that anyone has to call and to seek help outside of the VA regarding VA benefits deeply concerns me.

This matter can be addressed by properly training those responsible for determining the benefits in the first place. The role of these individuals is to assist veterans in the process and to adequately educate veterans about what is and is not available to them. We must remember that there is no greater love than for that of a man or a woman who is willing to lay down their life for their country. I hope